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PAGE 01 KIGALI 02304 211210Z
ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 FBIE-00 H-01
TEDE-00 INR-00 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SP-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00
/017W

-----DBBB7F 211211Z /38

R 211204Z JUL 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO RWANDA COLLECTIVE
SECSTATE WASHDC 1043

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 002304

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINR, RW
SUBJECT: COLONEL KAREMERA ON HATRED,
TWO-TRACK GOVERNMENT

REF: A.) KIGALI 2287 B.) KIGALI 2174

1. C -- ENTIRE TEXT. OADR: SENSITIVITY OF SOURCE.
2. DCM DISCUSSED SOME OF THE THEMES OF REFTELS WITH
COLONEL - DOCTOR JOSEPH KAREMERA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
RPA INSIDER JULY 21, TOO LATE TO INCORPORATE HIS VIEWS IN
REF A.

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 02304 211210Z

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 14 MAY 2007 200103014

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3. ETHNIC HATRED: KAREMERA ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF ETHNIC HATRED A YEAR AFTER THE GENOCIDE. HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO OVERCOME IT, AND THAT ONE WAY WOULD BE FOR PROMINENT TUTSIS AND PROMINENT HUTUS TO TRAVEL TOGETHER TO TALK TO PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IF HE COULD TRAVEL WITH, SAY, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO THE LATTER'S HOME AREA, AND THE PEOPLE THERE SAW THAT THE TWO MINISTERS SHARED MUTUAL RESPECT, THAT WOULD BE A LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE. THEY WOULD BEGIN TO LEARN THAT IT WAS ALL RIGHT NOT TO HATE TUTSIS.

4. THE TWO TRACKS: KAREMERA CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A SPLIT IN GOVERNMENT ALONG ETHNIC LINES, AND THAT IT HAS BEEN TROUBLING HIM FOR SOME TIME. HE SAID THAT "WE" -- IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE MEANT THE GOVERNMENT, THE RPF, THE "COUNCIL OF COLONELS" -- WOULD SOON BE HOLDING A "SELF-CRITICISM" SESSION TO LOOK BACK AT THEIR PROGRESS AND FAILURES OVER THE YEAR. HE SAID THAT DURING THIS SESSION HE PLANNED TO RAISE THE IDEA HE PUT FORWARD IN PARA 3 ABOVE.

5. LEADERSHIP NEEDS HELP: KAREMERA SAID THAT WHAT HE HABITUALLY REFERS TO AS "THE CIVILIZED COUNTRIES" CAN HELP IN THIS EFFORT BY PUTTING CONSTRUCTIVE PRESSURE ON THE RWANDAN LEADERSHIP -- BOTH TUTSIS AND HUTU -- TO CARRY THE MESSAGE AGAINST ETHNIC HATRED TO THE PEOPLE. "IT IS OUR JOB TO DO IT," HE SAID, "BUT YOU CAN HELP US BY REMINDING US OF OUR DUTY. AFRICAN PEOPLE LISTEN TO THEIR LEADERS," HE SAID. "THAT WAS ONE OF THE CAUSES OF THE GENOCIDE. WE MUST GIVE THE PEOPLE A

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 02304 211210Z
GOOD MESSAGE." HE USED, IN MAKING THIS POINT, THE SAME HAND GESTURE OF INFORMATION FLOWING FROM ABOVE TO BELOW THAT THE CHIEF OF SECURITY IN KIBUYE HAD USED A WEEK EARLIER IN DESCRIBING HIS IDEAS ON "REEDUCATION" (REF B).

6. "WHAT LIFE WILL MY KIDS HAVE?": KAREMERA SAID THAT HE WAS OFTEN AFRAID OF DYING AND LEAVING BEHIND A RWANDA STILL FILLED WITH HATE. "WHAT LIFE WILL MY KIDS HAVE THEN?" HE ASKED. "MY SON IS

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EIGHT YEARS OLD. WILL HE GROW UP A REFUGEE, IN A CAMP, AS
I DID? THAT IS NOT WHAT I WANT. WE MUST MAKE PEOPLE
UNDERSTAND."

7. COMMENT: KAREMERA IS ONE OF OUR BEST AND MOST FREQUENT
CONTACTS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF HIS DIRECT
MANNER OF SPEAKING. IN THIS CONVERSATION WE SPOKE ABOUT
THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING AND BELIEF, THE
FAILURE OF REASON ALWAYS TO PREVAIL OVER EMOTION.
KAREMERA IS ONE VOICE IN THE RPA/GOR, BUT HE IS A
RESPECTED VOICE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY HIS THOUGHTFUL AND
FRANK APPROACH TO THE SOCIAL CRISIS UNDERLYING RWANDA'S
POLITICAL MESS TO HOPE THAT OTHERS ARE ALSO SEARCHING FOR
A BROAD-BASED SOLUTION ACCEPTED BY ALL RWANDANS.

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